

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] The acoustic device 50 is preferably used to measure the vertical distance to the top of the pelvis, because this is typically the tallest part of the animal's body. The other acoustic devices 60, 62 are preferably used to measure lateral distances to the pelvic region. The distances measured with the acoustic devices 50 and 60, 62 are then used to determine the approximate pelvic height H_P ~~HP~~ and width W_P ~~WP~~ of the animal. The acoustic devices 50 and 60, 62 preferably include ultrasound transducers known in the art. Suitable teachings for using ultrasound transducers and measuring distances to animals are disclosed in WO 99/67631 (now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,591,221), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] As is known, a typical ultrasound transducer generates, amplifies ~~amplifiers~~, and transmits a signal, which is reflected from the animal and returns to the transducer. The signal is received, amplified, and processed to provide information as to the distance of a location on the animal's surface to the transducer. For the disclosed system 10, the output for the ultrasound transducer 50 preferably directs a 1-ms tone burst, producing a sound pressure level at about 50k-Hz of approximately 118-dB SPL at 1 meter. Typically, the distance between the animal and the ultrasound transducer 50 may then be measured within 1 to 2 seconds or less.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] To measure a lateral extent of the pelvic region on the animal and ultimately obtain the approximate pelvic width W_p , a pair of acoustic devices 60, 62, preferably ultrasound transducers, are positioned laterally on both sides of the animal's pelvic region near the posterior door 16. In the embodiment shown in Figure 2A, the pair of opposing ultrasound transducers 60, 62 can be fixedly mounted in the disclosed system 10 and capable of measuring distances to the animal's pelvic region in a manner similar to that described above. As shown in Figure 2B, the pair of opposing ultrasound transducers 60, 62 can alternatively be mounted on the rail 36 having wheels 38 so that the ultrasound transducers 60, 62 can be automatically or manually moved relative to pelvic region of the animal to make lateral measurements. In yet another alternative shown in Figure 3A, a plurality of opposing ultrasound transducers 60, 62 can be fixedly mounted in the disclosed system 10 for making lateral measurement. In these arrangements, the lateral ultrasound transducers 60, 62 are preferably positioned in vertical alignment with the vertical acoustic device 50 so that they measure substantially the same area of the pelvic region of the animal.